

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12, 14, and 16-31 are pending. Claims 2, 13, 15 and 32 are canceled.

1. Claim 11 has been objected to because of informalities. Claim 11 has been amended to cure the informalities as suggested by the Examiner.

2. Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 16 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants believe the 112 issue is now resolved.

3. Claims 1 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application No. 10/418,779. A final office action for the copending application was mailed on July 19, 2006. The Applicants did not file a response to this office action, therefore, the copending application was abandoned after January 19, 2007 (35 U.S.C. section 133). Therefore, the double-patenting rejection is moot.

4. Claim 28 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application No. 10/418,779. As indicated in No. 3 above, the double-patenting rejection is moot.

5. The Examiner states that claims 1 and 12 or 28 are directed to an invention not patentably distinct from claims of commonly assigned 10/418,779. As indicated above in No. 3, this is moot.

6. Claims 3-11, 14, 26, 30, and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-11, 14, 26, 30,

and 31 depend from claim 1. As indicated in Nos. 3 and 5, claim 1 is allowable. There is no basis for the objections of claims 3-11, 14, 26, 30, and 31.

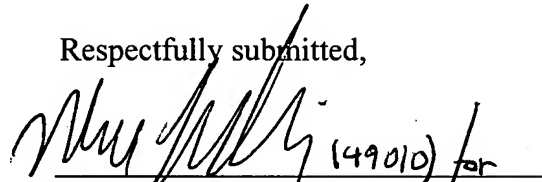
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all the claims are in condition for allowance. Removal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Date: January 29, 2007

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